

Serial No. 10/623,952
Docket No. NEC 532
Amendment B

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-3, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 26-28, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A lid-member holder used to define envelopes having surrounding wall members encapsulating electronic components in production of hollow-package type electronic products, which comprises:

a holder body; and

a plurality of lid members temporarily held by said holder body,

wherein said lid members ~~are arranged so as to be consistent with an arrangement of~~ and surrounding wall members align and register with one another,

wherein said surrounding wall members are sealed with said lid members in a lump to define said envelopes,

~~wherein a temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is realized such that, without said lid members being removed from said surrounding wall members, the~~
wherein the temporarily held lid members can be separated from the lid members holder body
after said surrounding wall members are completely sealed with said lid members.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid members are molded from a suitable resin material, using a metal mold in which said holder is incorporated, such that wherein the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved when the molding of said lid members is completed.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING STREET
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

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Claim 3 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 2, wherein a surface of said holder body is subjected to a rough surface treatment, and the molded lid members are in mechanical engagement with the treated surface of said holder body, whereby the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by the mechanical engagement between the molded lid members and the treated [[rough]] surface of said holder body.

Claim 4 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 3, wherein said holder body is formed with a plurality of openings which are closed by said lid members, and a size of said openings is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 3, wherein a roughness of the treated surface of said holder body is controlled to regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 6 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 2, wherein said holder body is formed with a plurality of openings arranged so as to be consistent with the arrangement of said surrounding wall members, and each of the molded lid members has a stub portion which is in mechanical engagement with an inner peripheral wall surface of a corresponding one of said openings, whereby the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by the mechanical engagement between the molded lid members and the inner peripheral wall surfaces of said openings.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 6, wherein

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING STREET
TUCSON, AZ 85701
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FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
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a contact area between [[the]] one of said openings opening and the stub portion corresponding to each other is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 6, wherein each of said lid members further has a thin flange element integrally and radially extended from a top surface of the stub portions portion, and the respective stub portions portion with the thin flange elements are fitted into the openings such that wherein each of the thin flange elements is in close contact with a surface of the holder body, which surrounds one of said corresponding openings, whereby the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by the stub portions with the thin flange elements.

Claim 9 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 8, wherein a thickness of said thin flange elements is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 2, wherein said holder body has a plurality of spike elements arranged so as to be consistent with the arrangement of said surrounding wall members, and each of the molded lid members is penetrated by one of said corresponding spike elements, whereby the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by the penetration of the spike elements into the molded lid members.

Claim 11 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 10, wherein a configuration of the spike elements is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

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TUCSON, AZ 85701
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Claim 12 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 2, wherein said holder body is made of a suitable resin material which is different from the resin material for said lid members, and the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by an adhesive force acting on interfaces between said ~~plate-like~~ holder body and said molded lid members.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 12, wherein a surface of said holder body is subjected to a rough surface treatment, and the molded lid members are in mechanical engagement with the treated surface of said holder body, whereby the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is further achieved by the mechanical engagement between the molded lid members and the treated surface of said holder body in addition to the adhesive force acting on the interfaces between said holder body and said molded lid members.

Claim 14 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 13, wherein a roughness of the treated rough surface of said holder body is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 15 (omitted)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 2, wherein said holder body is made of a suitable resin material, and is formed with a plurality of openings arranged so as to be consistent with the arrangement of said surrounding wall members, and a plurality of radial needle elements are integrally and inwardly protruded from an inner peripheral wall face of each of said openings wherein opening such that each of the molded lid members is mechanically engaged with the radial needle elements of one of said corresponding

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING STREET
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL 520.882.7623
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openings, whereby the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by the mechanical engagement between each molded lid member and the radial needle elements of each opening.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 16, wherein a number of the radial needle elements of each of said openings opening is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 18 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 16, wherein a thickness of said radial needle elements is controlled to thereby regulate a holding force with which said lid members are held by said holder body.

Claim 19 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid members are made of a suitable material except for a resin material, and the temporary holding of said lid members by said holder body is achieved by adhering said lid members to said holder body with a suitable adhesive resin.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the sealing of [[said]] respective said surrounding wall members with said lid members is achieved by adhering [[said]] respective said lid members to said surrounding wall members with a suitable adhesive resin.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the sealing of [[said]] respective said surrounding wall members with said lid members is achieved by coupling [[said]] respective said lid members to said surrounding wall members in an interference fit manner.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CLUSHING STREET
TUCSON, AZ 85701
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FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
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Claim 22 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 21, wherein each of said lid members is formed with a recess for receiving a top end of a corresponding surrounding wall member, a size of said recess being somewhat smaller than that of the top end of said surrounding wall member at a usual ambient temperature, and a material of said lid member has a coefficient of thermal expansion larger than that of the surrounding wall member.

Claim 23 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 21, wherein each of said lid members is formed with a bulged portion for inserting it into a top end opening of a corresponding surrounding wall member, a size of said bulged portion being somewhat larger than that of the top end opening of said surrounding wall member at a usual ambient temperature, and a material of said lid member has a coefficient of thermal expansion smaller than that of the surrounding wall member.

Claim 24 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said lid members is provided with an additional function which is obtained by processing said lid members in a lump, with the lid members being temporarily held by said holder body.

Claim 25 (original): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 24, wherein said additional function is an electromagnetic shield which is obtained from an electrically-conductive layer formed on each of the lid members.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A sealing process for sealing a plurality of surrounding wall members with a plurality of lid-members to define envelopes encapsulating electronic components in production of hollow-package type electronic products, which process comprises:

preparing an arrangement of said surrounding wall members;

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preparing a holder body carrying said lid members temporarily held thereby, with said lid members being arranged so as to be consistent with the arrangement of said surrounding wall members;

positioning [[said]] respective said lid members, held by said holder body, with respect to said surrounding wall members so as to be aligned and registered with each other;

attaching [[said]] respective said lid members to said surrounding wall members in a lump to thereby seal said surrounding wall member members with said lid member members, resulting in the definition of said envelopers; and

separating said holder body from said lid members after the completion of the sealing of said surrounding wall members with said lid members[[.]].

~~wherein the separation of said holder body from said lid members is done without removing said lid member from said surrounding wall members.~~

Claim 27 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 26, wherein the sealing of [[said]] surrounding said wall members with said lid members is achieved by adhering [[said]] respective said lid members to [[said]] surrounding said wall members with a suitable adhesive agent.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A lid-member holder as set forth in claim 26, wherein the sealing of [[said]] surrounding said wall members with said lid members is achieved by coupling [[said]] respective said lid members to [[said]] surrounding said wall members in an interference fit manner.

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